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Renowned stem cell researcher to speak in Missoula

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NEWS RELEASE

April 4, 2006

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RENOWNED STEM CELL RESEARCHER TO SPEAK IN MISSOULA

MISSOULA—

Dr. Irving Weissman, one of the world's leading researchers in stem cell biology, will present "Stem Cells: Science, Medicine and Politics" at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 10, in Missoula.

The event is hosted by the Montana Cancer Institute Foundation, a partnership formed in 2005 between The University of Montana and St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center.

The presentation will be held in the hospital's Conference Center and is free and open to the public.

Weissman was the first scientist to identify and isolate stem cells in any species. He is director of the Institute of Cancer and Stem Cell Biology and Medicine at Stanford University and a professor in the school's departments of developmental biology, pathology and biology.

An advocate for stem cell science and a highly respected educator in the field, Weissman first isolated mouse blood-forming stem cells and then human blood-forming stems cells that work in human transplants.

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As director of the Stanford University institute, he oversees research involving adult stem cells that have demonstrated great promise in treating disease.

“These cells are currently being used to treat cancers through bone-marrow transplants, where blood-forming stem cells regenerate the blood of transplant recipients who receive otherwise lethal doses of chemotherapy,” he said.

Weissman received a Bachelor of Science degree from Montana State University and a medical degree from Stanford University.

He has earned numerous prestigious awards, including the Linus Pauling Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Science, the Rabbi Shai Shacknai Memorial Prize in Immunology and Cancer Research, and the New York Academy of Medicine Medal for Distinguished Contributions to Biomedical Research.

Weissman was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and has been honored as California Scientist of the Year and Irvington Institute Immunologist of the Year.

For more information, call MCIF's Cindi Laukes at (406) 329-5663 or e-mail laukes@saintpatrick.org.

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